



STATE OF NEVADA

Department of Conservation & Natural Resources

Brian Sandoval, Governor

Leo M. Drozdoff, P.E., Director

DIVISION OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

Colleen Cripps, Ph.D., Administrator

Notice of Proposed Action

Web Posting Date: 08/31/11

The Administrator, Division of Environmental Protection, Carson City, Nevada is issuing the following notice of proposed action under the Nevada Revised Statutes and the Federal Clean Water Act. The Administrator has received an application for a new National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Permit No. NV0024066 from the following applicant:

**Southern Nevada Water Authority
PO Box 99956
Las Vegas, Nevada 89193-9956**

Southern Nevada Water Authority (SNWA) is constructing Intake No. 3 in Lake Mead, in Clark County, Nevada. SNWA currently operates two deepwater drinking water intakes at Saddle Island on the west shore of Lake Mead approximately 5 miles northwest of Hoover Dam and 20 miles east of the center of Las Vegas, within the Lake Mead National Recreation Area. Intakes No. 1 and No. 2, each with a pumping capacity of 600 million gallons per day (MGD), require a minimum lake elevation of 1,060 feet above mean sea level (amsl), and 1,000 feet amsl, respectively, to be fully operational. As a result of historic drought, declining lake levels potentially threaten the operation of Intakes No. 1 & No. 2. SNWA and its contractors are currently constructing Intake No. 3 to provide the SNWA system additional protection from loss of intake capacity, to increase system reliability by providing backup capability for Intakes No. 1 & No. 2, and to offer increased operational flexibility for accessing water at various depths and locations in Lake Mead. The permit includes dewatering discharges, water treatment plant discharges, slurry plant(s) discharges and water management for the excavation, drilling, boring and mining activities for the project. The construction project is expected to be complete in 2014. The maximum flow permitted will be 10,400 gallons per minute.

Based on a review of the NPDES permit application, the Division has made the tentative determination to issue the NPDES permit for a period of five (5) years.

Persons wishing to comment upon or object to the proposed determinations by the Administrator regarding permit issuance or request a hearing pursuant to the Nevada Administrative Code, Water Pollution Control should submit their comments or request, in writing or by Fax, within thirty (30) days of the date of newspaper publication, by **5:00 P.M. on October 3, 2011**, either in person, by mail, email or facsimile to:

**Nevada Division of Environmental Protection
Bureau of Water Pollution Control
901 S. Stewart St., Ste. 4001
Carson City, NV 89701**

All requests for hearings must indicate the interest of the person filing the request and the reason(s) why a hearing is warranted. All comments or objections received within the thirty (30) day comment period will be considered in the formulation of final determinations regarding the application. If written comments indicate a significant degree of public interest in the proposed permit, the Administrator shall hold a public hearing. The public notice of such hearings will be issued not less than thirty (30) days prior to the public hearing date.

If no hearing is held and the determinations of the Administrator are substantially changed from the tentative determinations, the Administrator will give public notice of the revised determinations. Additional comments and objections will be considered at that time.

The application, proposed permit, comments received, and other information are on file and may be copied, or copies may be obtained by writing to the above address or by contacting Jeryl Gardner of the Bureau of Water Pollution Control at (775) 687-9423, or at jgardner@ndep.nv.gov, or FAX (775) 687-4684. Copies of the Fact Sheet and Public Notice may be viewed or printed from the NDEP website at <http://ndep.nv.gov/admin/public.htm>.

Please bring the foregoing notice to the attention of all persons whom you know would be interested in this matter.